

Application No. 10/823,203  
Amdt. transmitted December 20, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed December 3, 2004

054030-0056

### IN THE CLAIMS

The Listing of Claims set forth below shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

5 Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An isolated and purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a biologically-active fragment thereof capable of intracellular cholesterol transport.

2. (Withdrawn) The isolated and purified polypeptide according to claim 1  
10 wherein the amino acid sequence is that of SEQ ID NO:3.

3. (Withdrawn) An isolated and purified nucleic acid that specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions to either strand of a denatured, double-stranded nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

4. (Withdrawn) The isolated and purified nucleic acid according to claim 3  
15 wherein said denatured, double-stranded nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Withdrawn) An expression vector comprising an isolated and purified nucleic acid according to claim 3.

6. (Withdrawn) A transformed host cell or organism comprising an isolated  
20 and purified nucleic acid according to claim 3.

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7. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing an isolated and purified polypeptide comprising AeSCP-2 or fragments thereof, comprising the step of culturing a transformed host cell or organism of claim 6 under conditions conducive to expression of the polypeptide, and recovering the expressed polypeptide from the cell or organism in  
5 isolated and purified form.

8. (Original) A method of identifying whether a compound is an agonist or antagonist of AeSCP-2 biological activity, comprising the steps of:

(a) incubating an AeSCP-2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or a biologically-active fragment thereof with  
10 a biological target in the presence of a compound; and

(b) measuring the ability of the compound to enhance or block the interaction between the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof and the biological target to thereby identify an agonist or antagonist effective in altering AeSCP-2 biological activity.

15 9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the biological target is cholesterol and the AeSCP-2 biological activity is cholesterol transport.

10. (Original) A method for identifying compounds which bind to or interact with an AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting an AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof with a  
20 compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to or interaction between the compound and the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof to assess the binding to or interaction with the compound, such binding or

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interaction being associated with a detectable signal in response to the binding or  
interaction of the AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof with the compound;  
and

5 (b) determining whether the compound binds to or interacts with the  
AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof by detecting the presence or absence of  
the signal generated from the binding or interaction of the compound with the  
AeSCP-2 polypeptide or fragment thereof.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the AeSCP-2  
polypeptide has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

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